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REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 113, 115-138 and 140-142 are cancelled with claims 1-96, 109-110, 114, 139 and 143-144 previously cancelled. Accordingly, claims 97-108 and 111-112 are pending after entry of the amendments herein. The cancellation of claims is made without prejudice to renewal, without intent to acquiesce to any rejection, and without intent to surrender any subject matter encompassed by the canceled claims. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any canceled subject matter in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 97-108 and 111-112. The Applicants note that claims 97-112 are indicated as allowable; however, claims 109 and 110 were previously cancelled.

No new matter is added. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments.

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Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issuance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, Order No. LIFE033.

Respectfully submitted, BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

Date: ///24/04

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